

Attorney's Docket No. 35576/233803

PATENT

#3A
HB
9/23/01

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re: Kokubo et al.
Filed: Concurrently Herewith
For: SOLID PREPARATION COATED WITH A
FILM COATING LAYER AND FILM COATING AGENT

April 26, 2001

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

In The Claims:

Please cancel Claims 2, 3 and 4.

Please add the following new Claims 6 through 30:

6. The solid preparation of claim 1, wherein said solid preparation is a tablet.

7. The solid preparation of claim 1, wherein said continuous film coating layer comprises one or more cellulose derivatives as film coating agents.

8. The solid preparation of Claim 7, wherein said cellulose derivative is selected from the group consisting of hydroxypropyl methyl cellulose (HPMC), methylcellulose (MC) and hydroxypropyl cellulose (HPC).